

Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

September 20, 2012

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Charitable Campaign is Underway

by Danielle Thomas and Dawn Haslag



The 2013 Missouri State Charitable Campaign marks the 28th year of giving. State employees will once again be asked to show just how bighearted they are during the campaign. MoDOT's official campaign started on Sept. 18 and will continue through Oct. 31. This allows employees the chance to make individual pledges through an easy payroll deduction or take part in one of the many fun and interesting fund-raising events that are sure to take place in district and division offices (look for more information coming soon).

Charities near and far rely on the assistance provided during the campaign. Regardless of how you choose to donate, participating in the Charitable Campaign is totally up to you, but it is a great way to show how much you care. Any amount, no matter how big or small, will go a long way toward helping people who are less fortunate than you. For example, did you know - \$1 a week provides 17 meals to homebound seniors; \$3 a week provides utility assistance for three needy families; or \$10 a pay-period can provide a 15-min call home to over 400 deployed troops. We are one Team MoDOT and anything is possible if we all work together!

Another very exciting aspect of the campaign is that MoDOT has been the largest donor agency for the past five years in a row! During the 2012 campaign, MoDOT employees gave \$171,279.47 to charities. The amount raised reflects 1,771 pledge card donations, accounting for more than 31 percent of MoDOT employees, plus the more than \$10,700 individuals gave during the many fund-raising events!

So remember, when you receive your pledge card this year, take a moment and think of those who have less and select a charity in the brochure by logging onto www.msecc.mo.gov/. Paper brochures will also be available to those with limited computer access. Pledge cards will be distributed to all employees by your district/division coordinator. Thank you in advance for your contributions!

For more information on the campaign contact MoDOT's CO MSECC coordinators Danielle Thomas at 573-526-7860, Jennifer Jorgensen at 573-751-2824, Dawn Haslag at 573-751-5678, Jackie Kampeter at 573-751-3744 or your district/division coordinator.



Missouri Barge Traffic Affected by Drought

by DeAnne Rickabaugh

It was a beautiful beginning. Barge traffic levels looked very promising this spring.

River levels were high enough that barge traffic began moving on the Missouri River in late February – one full month before the official navigation season began. However, this summer's drought resulted in lower water levels for both the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers.

"It's quite a change from 2011," said Sherrie Turley, MoDOT's river freight expert in Multimodal. "We've gone from historic flooding to historic drought in the span of one year."

"The good news is barge companies are able to meet their commitments on the Missouri. The reservoirs up north have plenty of water in storage to support a full navigation season of the Missouri River. That season ends on Dec. 1."

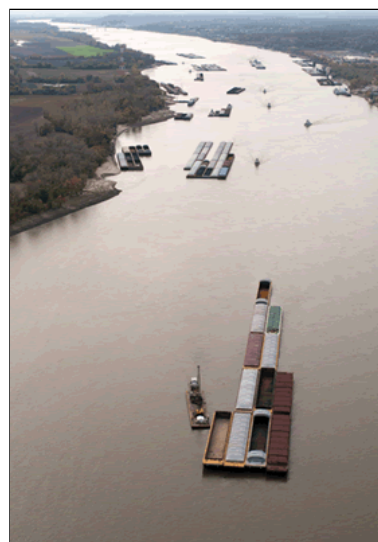
This summer, the Mississippi River was at its lowest levels since 1988. Shippers on the Mississippi are now filling barges to less-than-full capacity, so they draft higher in the water. By doing so, operators reduce the risk of striking sandbars and silt deposits.

Mississippi tow and tugboat operators have adapted to narrower navigable channels, creating narrower fleets of fewer barges. Moving fewer, lighter barges could adversely affect the flow of goods up and down the Mississippi River.

“River navigators are creative and adaptable when it comes to challenges like this,” said Cheryl Ball, MoDOT freight administrator. “As long as it is safe, they will find a way to keep goods moving on the water.”

“Though harvest will be lighter than a normal year, grain and other products still need to move from farm to factory to market,” said Ball. “Water is the cheapest way to move products, but if Mississippi River levels remain low, it is possible that freight will shift somewhat toward highway and railroad.”

Recent rains have improved, but not restored normal Mississippi River levels.



Barge freight moves freely in a typical year on the Mississippi. This year, traffic is slowed by low river levels due to drought.

Additional Exceptions Granted to F-Plated Vehicles This Fall

by DeAnne Rickabaugh

On Oct. 1, 2012, the way certain federal motor carrier safety regulations apply to agricultural operations will change. More exceptions to the federal motor carrier safety regulations will be granted as a result of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act.

One of the biggest changes is the definition of a **covered farm vehicle**. Starting that day, a covered farm vehicle is one that is:

- Operated by a farm/ranch owner or operator, employee or family member within 150 air miles of the farm/ranch.
- Transporting agricultural commodities, livestock, machinery or supplies to or from the farm/ranch.
- The vehicle must be identified by a special license plate (in Missouri, this is indicated by the ‘F’ tab on the plate).
- The vehicle may not be used in for-hire operation.



When operating a covered farm vehicle, the driver is not required to hold a commercial driver’s license or a medical certificate and is not limited to the federal hours of service law. The vehicle owner does not need to maintain a drug and alcohol testing program for the drivers nor do federal commercial vehicle maintenance repair and inspection requirements apply.

Again, these exceptions apply within 150 air-miles of the farm the truck is registered to. However, if crossing state lines, the farmer must comply with fuel tax and other registration programs or risk significant fines.

None of the exceptions apply to vehicles that must show a hazardous material placard.

To learn more about the farm hauling exceptions, call MoDOT Motor Carrier Services at 1-866-831-6277 or 573- 751-7100 and ask to speak with Safety & Compliance.

What's Happening

SharePoint Classes Available on LMS

SharePoint offers many benefits which have proved to be cost effective and a more efficient means of collaboration and document management. Due to these efficiencies we have seen an increase in adoption by Divisions, and are experiencing a higher need for training in SharePoint.

Due to this demand, IS will be providing basic user SharePoint training through LMS, to be held the third Thursday of every month throughout 2012. Any user desiring to learn the fundamentals of SharePoint, please visit the LMS Training resource center and sign up for a class today!

We encourage our partners to consider using SharePoint as their collaboration and document management tool in maintaining their current and frequently used files.

The first scheduled class will be Oct. 18, 2012. We look forward to seeing you in Training!

Sign up at the [LMS Student Center](#) - Course Code: 25198. For more information contact Anita Buddemeyer at 526-7931.



September Safety Jackpot Winner

Senior Maintenance Worker Scott Miller of the Southwest District's Ozark building won \$875.00 in the monthly Safety Jackpot grab bag! Scott will be sharing his winnings with his Ozark co-workers. See the [Southwest district page](#) for the full story.



New Safety Video

A new safety video on Asphalt Operations prepared by the Central District is available. The video was created for supervisors to use in discussing the safety aspects of asphalt operations with their crews. You can view the video and a similar safety video regarding mowing on the [intranet](#). Find out more about the project on the [Central district page](#).



I-270 Dorsett-Page Project, Finalist in National Transportation Award Competition

A St. Louis highway project was selected as one of 10 national finalists in the 2012 America's Transportation Awards competition. A panel of national transportation experts picked the Interstate 270 Dorsett-Page project from 49 entries representing 34 states in the categories of on-time, under budget, innovative management and best recovery act. See the [St. Louis district page](#) for details.

Connections

The mission of Connections is to be a source of Missouri Department of Transportation news and feature articles that connect employees statewide.

Customer Relations - MoDOT
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Editor: Tammy Wallace

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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Central Office

Central Office Divisions on the Move

As part of the Bolder Five-Year Direction, MoDOT plans to vacate the leased facility located at 1320 Creek Trail Drive in Jefferson City. Terminating the lease at Creek Trail will free up nearly \$500,000 per year, which can be used on vital road and bridge projects.



Relocating Motor Carrier Services, Maintenance, and Traffic and Highway Safety divisions from Creek Trail Drive to 830 MoDOT Drive will require moving some of the other MoDOT divisions at the remaining Jefferson City locations:

- Multimodal employees will move from 830 MoDOT Drive to 105 W. Capitol.
- CADD employees will move from 830 MoDOT Drive to 601 W. Main.
- Financial Services and Audits and Investigations will move to a different location within 105 W. Capitol.
- Environmental and Historical Preservation and Information Systems will relocate within 601 West Main.

General Services has established a schedule of proposed relocation dates to create space for the future Creek Trail division moves. Moving dates are not yet determined for employees housed at Creek Trail Drive.



September

- 10-11 – CADD moved to 601 West Main (complete)
- 17-21 Construction in new Equal Opportunity and Diversity and Financial Services areas
- 24-28 Construction in new CADD Training Room

October

- 1-4 CADD Training Room move
- 9-10 Financial Services moves
- 11-19 Construction in new Audits and Investigations area
- 22-23 Audits and Investigations moves
- 24-31 Construction in new Multimodal area

November

- 1-2 Multimodal moves
- 5-9 Construction in Environmental, Historic Preservation and Information Systems area
- 13 Environmental, Historic Preservation and Information Systems moves
- 19-20 Equal Opportunity and Diversity moves

[Bolder 5 Floor Plans.pdf](#)

Update to Medicare Part D

In the August 9 edition of Connections, we published an article that no significant changes would be made to medical benefits for 2013. In that article we also noted that an alternative Medicare Part-D drug program would be offered to Medicare subscribers (generally retirees and survivors).

Since that edition, additional information regarding the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services change in guidelines on the subsidies related to the alternate plan has been analyzed. Given the analysis on these changes, the alternate plan is no longer a viable alternative for our retirees, so no alternative plan will be offered.

However, premiums for the current Part-D plan, which will continue to be an option for retirees and other participants on Medicare, will see a lower premium rate for the 2013 calendar year. Retirees will receive details on this and other insurance information in a letter to be sent out later this fall.



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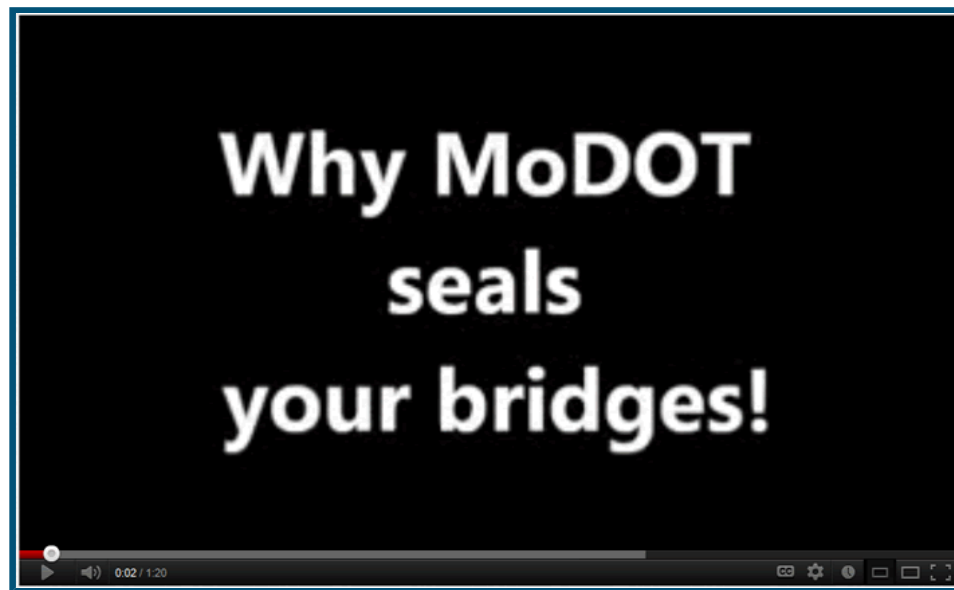
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Why Do We Do It?



Everything is more expensive these days, and the need to prolong our items is becoming even more important. Many of you take the time to polish or "seal" your favorite, or most expensive pairs of shoes before the onset of winter. You do this to keep what is inside dry, and to make the shoes last longer, just like the Missouri Department of Transportation does with its bridges. A new video explaining how and why MoDOT seals bridges is now available on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MoDOTNWDistrict. "We seal bridges on a rotating basis to preserve and protect them," says District Maintenance and Traffic Engineer Marty Liles. "It pushes back the day when we will have to replace them, which ultimately saves money." To view the video, click on the image above or go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DPGBqDGQpml&feature=plcp>.

Video shot and edited by Travis Ellis

Celebrate My Drive

Learning to drive is a big first step in life's journey and State Farm and the Missouri NW Region Coalition for Roadway Safety are proud to partner in St. Joseph to celebrate this milestone with teen drivers while making sure they stay safe on the road. Celebrate My Drive is a new teen driver program from State Farm to help communities rally around and support new teen drivers everywhere as they learn to drive and get ready for the road ahead. Saturday, Sept. 15,



northwest area teens and their parents participated in a free event to learn how to drive safely and participate in a chance to win an Apple iPad 2 with Wi-Fi or even earn a \$100,000 grant for their school.

Photos by Melissa Black

Keeping Younger Children Safe, Too

In honor of Child Passenger Safety Week, Sept. 16-22, the NW Region Missouri Coalition sponsored a number of educational events with the goal of raising awareness of the risks associated with using either a defective, outdated or improperly secured child safety restraint. Used car seat collections were conducted in several locations throughout St. Joseph. Those seats will be destroyed during a child safety seat "crunch" at a later date. In addition, car seat checks were scheduled for Princeton, St. Joseph and Trenton Missouri. According to NW MO Coalition for Roadway Safety Regional Coordinator Jackie Spainhower, "Many parents do not realize that using an expired car seat can compromise their child's safety. Unless you have specific directions from the manufacturer, the car seat label or the manual that states otherwise, you should stop using a car seat after six years." General Service Technician Lana Allen is seen here conducting a public inspection for a couple of young people who seem less than interested.



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Northeast District

Three Piece Pipe Replaces Bridge

Just as MoDOT's Northeast District finished its contracted bridge projects for the year, several north area maintenance crews teamed up with Scotland County to replace another bridge, only this time with a large pipe. During a three-day road closure, a three-piece pipe totalling 108' was installed after the bridge was removed. According to MoDOT North Area Maintenance Superintendent Rick Ellison, all aspects of the project went well. "This is not a routine maintenance project, so it involved a lot of planning and teamwork," he said.

"As we were jackhammering the bridge deck, the north retaining wall fell in, so we had to make some adjustments," Rick said. It was no problem for his crews, under the leadership of Todd Greenstreet, Memphis maintenance supervisor. "Other than some wind Monday afternoon, the weather was great, and the crews worked very well together," he praised. "The crews worked efficiently, showed team work, and finished this project quickly so we didn't inconvenience the public very long," he said.



The pipe that replaced the bridge on Route 15 south of Memphis came in three pieces, totalling 108 feet and 10' in diameter. The project was completed in three days.

High School Hoopers Go "Round and Round" at Groundbreaking Ceremony



Paula Gough, MoDOT Northeast District engineer, listens to Troy Mayor Mark Cross talk about the partnerships and relationships that have been successful to bring the South Lincoln Drive Interchange Project to fruition.

What do you get when you cross an 80's hair band, hula hoops, high school cheerleaders, dignitaries and a lot of dirt? An audience of about 60 people experienced all the "hoopla" surrounding the groundbreaking ceremony for the new South Lincoln Drive Interchange in Troy. Why are we talking in "circles"? The interchange includes three roundabouts, so to highlight the unique design, organizers featured round items throughout the ceremony, right down to circles of dirt for the actual groundbreaking to cookies and cupcakes for refreshments. The project costs about \$8 million and is expected to be done by October 1, 2013. More information about the project, as well as pictures from the event, are online at 1.usa.gov/U5kg1T.



A short video shows the Trojan High Hula Hoopers sharing their flare at the groundbreaking.

The NE auction of surplus items will be held Saturday, September 29, starting at 9:00 AM, at the Hannibal District Complex with a pre-auction viewing on Friday, September 28, from 1:00-4:00 PM.
[Auction Sale Bill](#)

Arrive Alive Car Shares Message

The NE Coalition for Roadway Safety has a presence throughout northeast Missouri, thanks in part to the help of outreach coordinators like Kim Biondo. "Kim works several events and stays in touch with communities in our south counties, and is affectionately known by the kids in these areas as the 'arrive alive lady,'" said Marisa Ellison, customer relations manager and facilitator of the NE Coalition.

Other outreach coordinators also assist with programs such as Battle of the Belt, driver's education and participating in evening and weekend events. Pictures from these events can be found on www.savemolives.com under the Northeast Region.



This car was on display during Champ Clark Heritage Days in Bowling Green as part of the NE Coalition for Roadway Safety's encouragement of buckling up.

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Ground Breaking Ceremony Kicks Off Flintlock Flyover Project

by Kerri Lewis

A cool breeze welcomed nearly 200 people to a ground breaking ceremony to kick off construction for the highly anticipated Flintlock Flyover project in Liberty on Thursday, Sept. 6. Community members from the Northland area, elected officials and several future motorists from South Valley Middle School took part in the celebration.

Music from the South Valley Middle School and South Valley Junior High School bands drifted over the crowd as the ceremony started. U.S. Congressman Sam Graves welcomed everyone to the event and expressed the importance this project has for the growing community.



Students and elected officials made the Flintlock Flyover Project official with the turning of the dirt at the September 6 ground breaking celebration. Photo by Kerri Lewis

The program included speeches from U.S. Senator Roy Blunt's office representative Tom Salisbury, Mo. State Senator Luann Ridgeway, Mo. State Representatives Myron Neth and T. J. Berry, Clay County Presiding Commissioner Pam Mason, City of Liberty Mayor Greg Canuteson, Kansas City Councilman of the First District at Large Scott Wagner, Liberty School District Superintendent Mike Brewer, and MoDOT District Engineer Dan Niec. Missouri Highways and Transportation Commissioner Stephen Miller wrapped up the program with a message to the future of our transportation system, the students in attendance. Miller described the important role each of them plays and how their decisions will influence the future of Missouri.

The morning's event concluded with the ceremonial breaking of ground. With shovels in hand and the help of several students in the crowd, officials turned the dirt. The project is now officially under way.



Nearly 200 people attended the Flintlock Flyover ground breaking to kick off the project.

What is the Flintlock Flyover Project?

The area west of I-35 in central Clay County continues to experience significant growth. The cities of Liberty and Kansas City, along with MoDOT and the Liberty School District have been working together to ensure that the area's transportation facilities can meet the community's future needs.

The Flintlock Road Overpass or the Flintlock Flyover project has been identified as one component of the area's

transportation needs. It will address several local needs, improving safety and reducing congestion at key locations in the area, specifically on Route 152. To help lessen the amount of traffic on Route 152, MoDOT and partners will construct the Flintlock Flyover.

The new roadway will connect North East Flintlock to Liberty Drive, providing a two-lane road, with a paved bicycle and pedestrian path. Roundabouts will also be incorporated into the project at Liberty Drive and N.E. 76th Street. This project will open to traffic before the start of the 2013 school year.



The South Valley Middle and Junior High School bands prepare to play *The Star Spangled Banner* at the September 6 Flintlock Flyover Project ground breaking ceremony. Photo by Kerri Lewis



District Engineer Dan Niec, U.S. Congressman Sam Graves and Mo. Highways and Transportation Commissioner Stephen Miller take a moment to talk with future broadcasters from South Valley Middle School. Photo by Kerri Lewis

KC Hosts First MoDOT Regional Diversity and Inclusion Conference

by Kerri Lewis

Approximately 200 employees from the Kansas City District participated in the first MoDOT Regional Diversity and Inclusion Conference hosted by Central Office's Equal Opportunity and Diversity Division and the KC Work Life Center. The day's events included breakout sessions and team building activities to highlight the importance of embracing diversity not just in a work environment but life in general.

Keynote speakers included Jamie Grayson, JLG Enterprise LLC President/CEO who spoke about what diversity means and how it affects us each in our every day life; Michelle Johnson, diversity consultant, speaker and writer who talked about ways to improve relations within an organization, and Donna Deetz, Learning & Development trainer, who talked about how our age groups can make us diverse in the era we grew up in and how it affects our decisions and work ethics.

The day-long event was informative and provided the opportunity for employees in different departments to interact and work together as a team.



District Engineer Dan Niec welcomed employees to the KC District's first Diversity and Inclusion Conference September 5. Photo by Jennifer Benefield

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Route 50 Four-Lane Project Awarded

Route 50 and Dix Road Bridge Resurfacing Projects Also Approved

Work to build a new four-lane highway on Route 50 in Osage County will begin in October.

Under the project, which the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission awarded Sept. 12, approximately 6.6 miles of Route 50, from the Route 50/63 junction to County Road 604 west of Linn, will be relocated and widened to four lanes. The project also includes building two bridges as a result of the new highway alignment.

The \$25.5 million project was awarded to Iron Mountain Construction Services. Work is expected to begin in late October and to be completed by September 2014. Lane closures are expected to be minimal during construction because the highway will be built on a new alignment.



"The new realignment will remove many of the hills, curves and access points drivers currently experience, greatly improving safety and traffic flow on this stretch of Highway 50," said Central District Design Engineer Nicole Hood.

The commission also approved a \$1 million project to resurface two sections of Route 50 in Cole County and the Dix Road bridge over Route 50 in Jefferson City.

Route 63 Project Serves as Backdrop for Safety Video

The asphalt resurfacing job under way on Route 63 in Osage County was the backdrop for the recent safety video shared with employees statewide.

The project was selected as a good source for talking about safety because of the many work components all taking place at the same time to accomplish the job.

In the video, Senior Construction Inspector Cary Armour and Assistant District Engineer Travis Koestner share tips for staying safe on an asphalt pavement job.



The Route 63 project involves resurfacing more than 12 miles of roadway in Osage County. The work extends from Route P in Freeburg to south of U.S. 50 and includes paving shoulders and adding rumble stripes. The project is scheduled for completion in November 2012.

You can view the September safety video on the state intranet site: [wwwi](http://wwwi.modot.mo.gov).

Judy Scott Retires



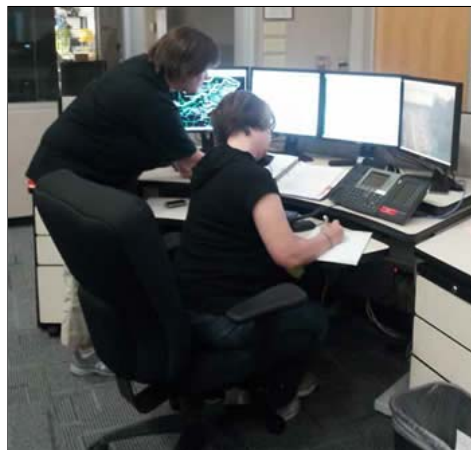
Friends and co-workers of Camden County Maintenance Supervisor Judy Scott gathered at the Camdenton Maintenance building on Aug. 20 to wish Judy well on her retirement after 27 years of service to MoDOT. Pictured from left to right are Judy, Camdenton Crew Leader Rob Long and Maintenance Superintendent Kent Bohon. Congratulations, Judy!

The St. Louis Experience

Central District Customer Service Representatives Janis Gieck and Tina Grothoff recently broadened their horizons by volunteering to work a busy Saturday in the St. Louis Traffic Management Center.

The St. Louis District was geared up for a hectic weekend Sept. 14-16 and asked if any district reps would like to help staff the center. In addition to the Forest Park Balloon Glow and Race, about 2,000 motorcycle stunt riders descended on St. Louis as part of the Streetfighterz Ride of the Century 2012. Adding to that was the closure of Interstate 64 westbound at the Mississippi River and other events, such as a concert at the Verizon Center.

"We thought it might be helpful for reps from rural districts to experience some of the challenges we face in the metro area," said Alan Heathman, traffic systems supervisor in St. Louis.



Central District Customer Service Representatives Janis Gieck and Tina Grothoff recently volunteered to help out in the St. Louis Traffic Management Center.

Tina and Janis helped field customer calls so others staffing the center could focus on monitoring the traffic cameras and flow and respond to incidents. Fortunately, the weekend passed with no major incidents.

"It was a great learning experience," Tina said. "I'm so glad we got to do it."

Added Janis: "It was a great opportunity to learn how other customer service reps handle big events. There is a lot of planning and coordination that goes into events this size."

For more info

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St. Louis District

I-270 Dorsett-Page Project Selected in Top 10 National Transportation Awards

by Kara Price



Aerial view of new I-270 at Dorsett-Page diverging diamond interchange

Vote for St. Louis' one and only diverging diamond interchange! This I-270 at Dorsett-Page project has been selected as one of the 10 national finalists in the 2012 America's Transportation Awards competition. A panel of national transportation experts chose this project for the People's Choice Award from 49 entries representing 34 states.

The awards honor the best transportation projects in the country and MoDOT's diverging diamond interchange is truly deserving of this recognition, according to AASHTO (American

Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials) Executive Director John Horsley. As the voice of transportation, AASHTO works to educate the public and key decision makers about the critical role that transportation plays in securing a good quality of life and sound economy for America.

As one of the Top 10, this project is now in the running for two prizes: the Grand Prize and the People's Choice Awards. Both winners will receive national recognition and a \$10,000 cash prize, which can be donated to the charity or scholarship fund of their choosing. While the Grand Prize will be determined by another panel of transportation experts, the People Choice Award will be selected through online voting that is underway and continues through October 19. The winners will be announced at the AASHTO annual meeting held on November 18.

The MoDOT team encourages employees and retirees to vote through AASHTO's online awards link. You can vote up to 10 times per day by [clicking here](#) or visit www.AmericasTransportationAward.org. Vote for St. Louis' first diverging diamond interchange!

St. Louis Employee Receives MOKAN Public Sector Executive of the Year Award

by Kara Price

Shirlyn Myles, MoDOT St. Louis Community Liaison, recently received the 2012 MOKAN Public Sector Executive of the Year Award. This award is presented to a professional who represents a public entity that impacts the construction and building community.

Myles was honored for her dedication and commitment to diversity in the workplace and the inclusion of Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and Women Business Enterprise (WBE) businesses. This is Myles' second community

award she has been recognized for within the past few months.

According to MOKAN board members, Myles is always accessible and reliable to either resolve an issue or refer to the person that can help them. She has exceeded expectations with regard to both workforce and business diversity inclusion.

MOKAN provides opportunities for MBE and WBE contractors on construction projects in the St. Louis metropolitan area. MOKAN partners with MoDOT on commercial driver's license (CDL) training. As of September 17, approximately 32 participants have obtained employment requiring a CDL.

Congratulations Shirlyn on your hard work and dedication!



Myles receives the MOKAN award for her strong dedication to the community. From left to right: Jeff Wright, MOKAN board member; Shirlyn Myles, MoDOT Community Liaison; Yaphett El-Amin, MOKAN Executive Director.

Join the Charitable Campaign's Mini-Rally

by Kara Price

St. Louis will host a mini-rally next week to kick off this year's Missouri State Employees Charitable Campaign (MSECC). There will be approximately 20 non-profit organizations within the St. Louis area attending this year's mini-rally.

The St. Louis mini-rally will take place on Thursday, September 27 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in the district office's conference Room 160, located at 1590 Woodlake Drive in Chesterfield.

"The purpose of the mini-rally is to give employees an opportunity to meet the local charities and their representatives, and get a true understanding where their donation is going," said Mike Fogg, chairman of St. Louis district's Charitable Campaign.

MSECC provides state employees with one unified fundraising campaign to contribute to charitable organizations. During the campaign, state employees will be given the opportunity to make a charitable contribution.



For more info

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Comments & Suggestions

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NEW SIGNAL CONTROLLER : Replacing a controller for a traffic signal on Route YY at Route 65 in Springfield are Springfield Electrician Assistant Charles Armstrong, left, and Senior Electrician Jeff Phipps. (photo/Bob Edwards)



NEW 'MOVE OVER' SIGN: Joplin Senior Maintenance Worker Nancy Pietrzak, in bucket, and Joplin Maintenance Crew Leader Ryan Boyd, guiding the sign on the ground, are part of a crew putting up new "Move Over" signs on northbound Route 71 north of Carthage. Intermediate Maintenance Worker Rich Morgan operates the platform truck controls. The Legislature earlier this year added MoDOT to the law and new signs have been put up statewide. (photo/LeAnn Blankenship)

Safety Jackpot: Teamwork Pays Off For Entire Ozark Maintenance Crew

by Bob Edwards

While Ozark Senior Maintenance Worker Scott Miller had his name picked to do the "Bag-Grab" for the September Safety Jackpot, he will receive only 1/17th of the \$875 he won.

That's because the 17 workers at the Ozark shop pooled their letters to gain more entries. The goal is to spread any one person's winnings equally among the group. If one wins, the entire Ozark shop wins.

The system worked. Dividing the \$875 by 17, each member of the Ozark crew will get \$51-and-change.

"That's teamwork!" Southwest District Safety and Health Manager Gary McLarry said. "The whole crew is receiving the benefit."

Everyone celebrated on Monday, Sept. 10, when Miller pulled the prize-money certificates out of the bags he grabbed -- \$500 from one bag and \$375 from another.

Safety Jackpot representative David Welch ran the drawing and was joined by District Engineer Becky Baltz and other district management team members who were on hand to witness the event and offer congratulations.

"It gets everybody involved. They're all excited about it," Ozark Maintenance Supervisor Quintin Taylor said.

Yes, Taylor said, Ozark Maintenance is having fun with the Safety Jackpot. The contest is a MoDOT-sponsored safety incentive program begun July 1.

However, he said workers are serious about safety where it really counts -- in daily safety meetings and on the road.

"They're pretty good to watch out for each other," Taylor said.



Ozark Senior Maintenance Worker Scott Miller. (photo/Gary McLarry)

New Route 13 Lanes Open in Stone County

by Angela Eden

A new mile-long stretch of Route 13 on the west side of the Stoneridge community in Stone County was opened to traffic on Wednesday (Sept. 19).

At the same time, existing Route 13 on either end of Stoneridge was CLOSED for up to two weeks -- into the first week of October -- as work nears completion on a project to four-lane the busy north-south road between Branson West and Kimberling City.

To get into and out of the Stoneridge business strip during the closing, drivers on the new lanes of Route 13 will be guided to use Stoneridge Center Road.

To keep the Stoneridge community in the loop, Branson Resident Engineer Johnny Teegardin, Senior Construction Inspector Terry Morgan and Senior Customer Service Representative Michelle Kelley met with business owners the week before.

A number of business people remain concerned about how the traffic pattern change will effect their futures. The section of road to the west of Stoneridge is designated Route 13, and the old road will become "Business Highway 13" through Stoneridge.

Teegardin said he couldn't diminish the fears of some people, but those in attendance appreciated the effort made to communicate with them about the changes.

"They shook my hand and told me thanks for coming out to talk to us," he said.

The project was ranked high on the statewide rural projects priority list in 2005 and gained early support from emergency response agencies in southern Stone County. It was then added to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. Construction began in May 2011.

The \$11.5-million (construction) project is scheduled for completion by early December, although prime contractor Journagan Construction of Springfield has plans to finish in late October or early November.

Auction Proceeds Go Toward Road Work

by Bob Edwards

The Southwest District's first auction of surplus equipment, tools and materials -- at the former Sunshine Maintenance Facility on Sept. 13 -- netted \$34,297.80.

Proceeds from this MoDOT auction and others around the Southwest District and elsewhere across the state will be used to take care of state roads. Funds generated from auction sales will go back to each district through the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.

Senior Procurement Agent Andy McNeill said some items at Sunshine drew little attention, but others prompted lots of competition among the 146 registered bidders.

"There were people moving around all day," he said, describing the busy event.

Interest was high, for example, in pavers and landscape blocks and hand tools, McNeill said.

Support Services Manager Deborah Stuart said the auctioneer "thought we got good prices for our items."

Also, she said, "There were several people interested in buying the Sunshine facility." They were directed to speak with the district's Right-of-Way department.

Crawford Auction Service of Cross Timbers was chosen through a statewide "request for proposal" process to run the auction at Sunshine and the auction today (Sept. 20) at Sarcoux Maintenance.

Crawford also has auctions scheduled for Oct. 10 at Wheatland, Oct. 25 at Fair Grove and Nov. 8 at Rich Hill.

Check the [Crawford Auction Service](http://www.modot.mo.gov/southwest/connections_southwest.htm) web site for sale bills closer to the auction dates.

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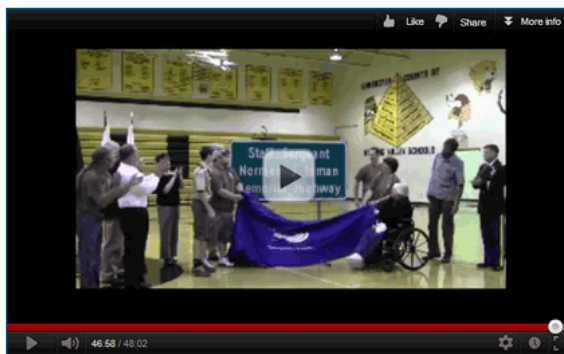
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Southeast District

Memorial Highway Ceremony Honors SSG Norman J Inman

The bleachers of the Arcadia Valley High School Gym were filled with over 100 attendees on Sept. 14 to celebrate the naming of a memorial highway in honor of Staff Sergeant Norman J. Inman. A portion of Highway 21 in Iron County from the intersection of Highway 221 south to the intersection of Highway 72 was named the Staff Sergeant Norman J. Inman Memorial Highway.

Inman, a graduate of Arcadia Valley High School, was a Staff Sergeant in the Missouri Army National Guard 1140th and served his country in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was also a member of the St. Paul Lutheran Church, the Arcadia Valley Elks Lodge, the Ironton VFW Post, the Leadwood Masonic Lodge and was active in Babe Ruth baseball, Little Dribblers and the Boy Scouts of America.



Visit www.modot.org/southeast/news_and_information/special_events to view videos and photos from the memorial highway dedication ceremony.

Inman passed away at his home on Jan. 5, 2012, leaving behind his wife, Connie; sons, Josh, Justin and Jonathan; and mother Myrtle.

Speakers included:

- Ms. Christy Mercer, on behalf of U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill
- Ms. Cassie Thomas, on behalf of U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson
- The Honorable Kevin Engler, Missouri Senate, District 3
- The Honorable Paul Fitzwater, Missouri House of Representatives, District 152
- The Honorable Randall Head, Associate Circuit Judge
- The Honorable Don Barzowski, Iron County Presiding County Commissioner
- Lieutenant Colonel Ed Gargas, Missouri Army National Guard
- Mr. Charles Kindlesparger, Cousin of SSG Inman
- MoDOT Southeast District Engineer Mark Shelton

For more information on the dedication ceremony, please visit:

www.modot.org/southeast/news_and_information/special_events/inman_sept2012.htm.

Missouri Fox Trotting Highway Sign Dedication Ceremony

A dedication ceremony for the Missouri Fox Trotting Highway was held Saturday, Sept. 8, at 5 p.m. to celebrate the naming of the Missouri Fox Trotting Highway on Route 5. The ceremony was held at the Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breed Association in Ava, Mo.

Speakers included:

- President of the Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breed Association, Dr. Joyce Graening
- The Honorable Jay Wasson, Missouri Senate, District 20
- The Honorable Tony Dugger, Missouri House of Representatives, District 144
- MoDOT Assistant District Engineer Chris Rutledge

Representative Tony Dugger sponsored the legislation, naming Highway 5 in Douglas and Wright Counties from Ava to Mansfield the Missouri Fox Trotting Highway.



Developed from horses in the Missouri Ozarks, the Missouri Fox Trotting Horse is characterized by a gentle demeanor and its signature gait, the fluid, diagonal 4-beat fox trot. Bloodlines can be traced from the horses of early settlers coming to the Ozarks from neighboring states of Kentucky, Illinois, Tennessee and Arkansas. In 2002, the Missouri Legislature recognized the Missouri Fox Trotting Horse as the Official State Horse.

To view videos and photos from the event, please visit:

Videos from the ceremony are also available on the SE District's YouTube Channel, available at:
www.youtube.com/MoDOTSoutheast.

www.modot.org/southeast/news_and_information/special_events.

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